

Contribution to knowledge of Neotropical species of the „*Dermestes bicolor* species group“ (Coleoptera: Dermestidae)

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Abstract. *Dermestes (Dermestes) difficilis* sp. n. from Bolivia is described, illustrated and compared with *Dermestes (Dermestes) subaenescens* Pic, 1943.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Dermestes* Linnaeus, 1758 contains 84 species and subspecies worldwide (Háva 2003*). Háva & Kalík (2005) recently revised the species of the „*Dermestes peruvianus* species group“, known from the Neotropical region, with compiling a list of all known species; from Neotropical region, 14 species were recently known. The two species discussed here belong to the „*Dermestes bicolor* species group“, as defined by Kalík & Ohbayashi (1982). The species group contains 10 species distributed in Holarctic, Neotropical, Oriental and Afrotropical regions, from Neotropical region only two presented species.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Specimens of the species described here are provided with a red printed label with text as follows: „HOLOTYPE, sex symbol, *Dermestes (Dermestes) difficilis* sp. n. Jiří Háva det. 2006“

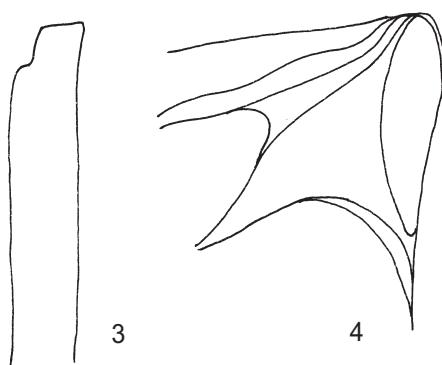
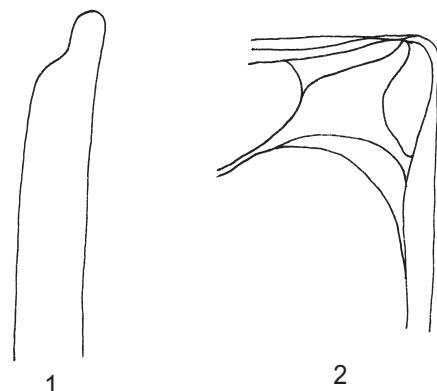
Locality data of studied material are given as on the original labels. Data on separate labels are indicated by slashes (\).

The following measurements were made:
total length (TL) - linear distance from anterior margin of pronotum to apex of elytra.
elytral width (EW) - maximum linear transverse distance.

The following abbreviations refer to collections, in which the examined material is deposited:

JHAC author's collection;
MNHN Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France;
NHRS Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet Stockholm, Sweden.

* Updates version: Dermestidae World (Coleoptera). - World Wide Web electronic publication:
<http://www.dermestidae.wz.cz>.



Figs 1-4. *Dermestes (Dermestes) subaenescens* Pic, 1943: 1- median lobe of aedeagus, laterally; 2- first visible abdominal sternite; *Dermestes (Dermestes) difficilis* sp. n.: 3- median lobe of aedeagus, laterally; 4- first visible abdominal sternite. All figures schematically, without setation.

RESULTS

Dermestes (Dermestes) subaenescens Pic, 1943 (Figs 1-2)

Dermestes subaenescens Pic, 1943: 15 [MNHN].

Dermestes subaenescens: Lepesme, 1950: 62 (redescription).

Dermestes subaenescens: Háva, 2003: 24; Háva & Kalík, 2005: 96; Háva, 2006: 47 (distribution).

Material examined. „Brasilien, Nova Teutonia, 27°11' B 52°23' L, x.1938, Fritz Plaumann“, 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, J. Háva det., (2 NHRS, 1 JHAC); „St. Catharina, Brasilien, Nova Teutonia, xi.1938, Fr. Plaumann“, 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀, J. Háva det., (2 NHRS, 1 JHAC).

Remarks. The species described by Pic (1943) from Brazil. Lepesme (1950) redescribed this species and mentioned it from Brazil: Goyaz, Rio Verde [holotype] and Santa Catharina, and

figured only form of body. The aedeagus (Fig. 1) and anterior part of right side of first visible abdominal sternite (Fig. 2) are firstly figured.

Distribution. Argentina: Chaco de Santiago, Brazil: Nova Teutonia, Paraguay: Chaco.

***Dermestes (Dermestes) difficilis* sp. n.**
(Figs 3-4)

Type material. Holotype (♂): „Bolivia, Chapare, 400m, ix.1953, Scheenfelder lgt.“. Holotype deposited in (JHAC).

Description of holotype. Body measurements (mm): TL 5.5 EW 2.6. Whole body brown, elongated, slightly convex. Head with long brown setation, densely punctured, maxillary and labial palpi dark brown. Antennae dark brown, with eleven antennomeres. Three last antennomeres forming dark brown antennal club, covered by brown setation. Pronotum more closely punctured and more densely setaceous than head. Pronotal disc moderately convex with two small, circular, shallow depressions, its setation long, formed by brown seta, hind margin of pronotum with long, light brown seta. Two small depressions near basal margin of pronotum are very shallow. Scutellum triangular, covered with long light brown setation. Elytra densely and strongly punctured; each elytron with 10 longitudinal striae; anteriorly on posterior margin near epipleuron with long dense brown-yellow setation; posteriorly gradually rounded, with dense brown setation. Apex of each elytron with short, light brown setation. Epipleuron with light brown setation, coarsely puncured. Legs brown, with yellow setation and dark brown spines along shaft. Ventral part of body densely covered with brown-yellow setation. Prosternum with long brown setation. All sternites brown, with short yellow pubescence. First visible abdominal sternite with distinct lateral depressions as in (Fig. 4). Abdominal sternite IV with median tuft of yellow setae. Aedeagus as in (Fig. 3).

Female unknown.

Differential diagnosis. The new species differs from the *D. (D.) subaenescens* Pic, by the unicolorously brownish pubescence (*subaenescens* with unicolorous yellowish pubescence) on elytra and form of aedeagus and structure of lateral depressions on the first visible abdominal sternite.

Remarks. The new species were collected at the same locality in 1953 together with *D. (D.) boliviensis* Háva & Kalík, 2006 and *D. (Dermestinus) maculatus* DeGeer, 1774.

Name derivation. The Latin name *difficilis* (= unreadable).

Distribution. Bolivia.

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